£1.20

FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

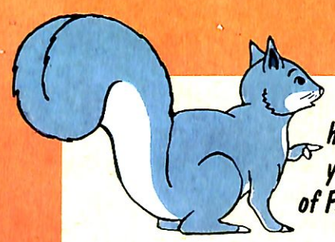
73

Based on the series shown on BBC TV.

FREE Scarface mask inside

NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES

73>
9 771353 380002



Squirrel says,

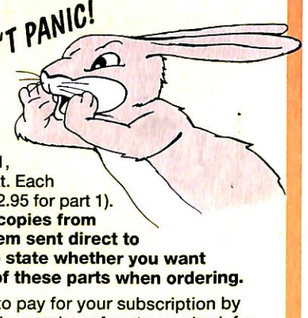
Hello Friends, here's how to make sure you don't miss any copies of Farthing Wood Friends!

GETTING YOUR COPIES
Please ask a grown up either to place a regular order with a newsagent, or take out a subscription.

HOW TO TAKE OUT A SUBSCRIPTION
(For readers in UK and Republic of Ireland only)
We'll deliver Farthing Wood Friends to your door every week AT NO EXTRA COST.

Simply write to: *Farthing Wood Subscriptions, PO Box 1, Hastings, East Sussex TN35 4TJ or telephone 01424 755755.*
You may order as many copies as you like but we suggest a minimum of 12 parts. Please include payment with your order and be sure to state the part number of the first copy you want. You can pay by cheque, postal order or credit card.

If you haven't got all your copies of Farthing Wood Friends



Videos are available with parts 1, 5 and every fourth part after that. Each part with a video costs £5.95 (£2.95 for part 1).
Whether you're getting your copies from your newsagent or having them sent direct to your home, please be sure to state whether you want video or non-video versions of these parts when ordering.
You can calculate the amount to pay for your subscription by multiplying the cover price by the number of parts required: for example 12 parts without the video x £1.20 will cost £14.40, or 12 parts with video (3 video parts at £5.95 and 9 non-video parts at £1.20) will cost £28.65. You can also order back numbers from the above address. Postage and packing are free.

OVERSEAS
Subscriptions are available in Australia. Either telephone (03) 872 4000 or write to: Farthing Wood Friends, MC Box 460, Eastern Mail Centre, VIC 3110 enclosing a cheque/money order for the cover price x the number of parts you wish to subscribe to (minimum 12 parts $47.40 without videos or $74.40 with videos every fourth part).

KEEPING YOUR COPIES TIDY
You can get a Tidy Box to keep your copies in. Each box holds 26 copies and costs £5.95. Just ask a grown up to write to the above address, stating the number of Tidy Boxes you want and enclosing the payment. Postage and packing are free.

HOW TO PAY
You can pay by cheque, postal order or credit card. Cheques or postal orders should be payable to Woodgate (Eaglemoss) Ltd. If paying by credit card, be sure to state the cardholder's name, type of card (Access or Visa), card number and expiry date. You can phone your order on 01424 755755.

Editorial and distribution offices
Eaglemoss Publications Ltd
7 Cromwell Road, London SW7 2HR
Customer enquiries: 01424 755755
Trade enquiries: 0171 581 1371
© Eaglemoss Publications Ltd 1994
The Animals of Farthing Wood is
© 1992 EBU.
Licensed by BBC Enterprises Ltd.
Based on the novels by Colin Dann.
Colour origination by Colourscan
Overseas Pte Ltd
Printed by Southernprint

CONTENTS

ISSUE 73

TALES OF FARTHING WOOD
All for one ...

ALL ABOUT
Eels

FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS
Gallery

SECRET WORLD OF
A sand dune

DISCOVERING NATURE
Great grains of sand

FASCINATING FACTS
Chronicle 3

PUZZLE IT OUT
The magic show

COLOUR IT IN
Don't bug me

FREE DOMINO GAME PART 1

ALSO IN ISSUE 74

TALES OF FARTHING WOOD
The Farthing Wood animals huddle together in Fox's earth, waiting for Scarface.

ALL ABOUT...Rabbits
There are millions of rabbits in Britain, so here are a few more facts about them.

FASCINATING FACTS
Chronicle has some fashion tips from Farthing Wood's vainest bird, Pheasant.

DISCOVERING NATURE
Practise your horse-riding – safely – on foot!

HOW TO DRAW
Draw Ranger and Charmer, the Romeo and Juliet of White Deer Park.

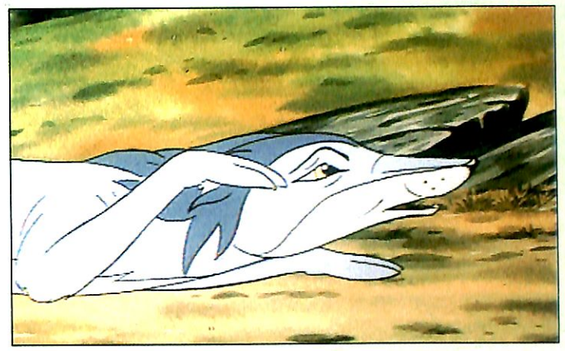
SECRET WORLD OF...
Forest rides
On foot or on horseback, you'll enjoy the scenery along these peaceful tracks.

PUZZLE IT OUT
Fun and games at school – is it possible? Of course, it is, with some imagination.

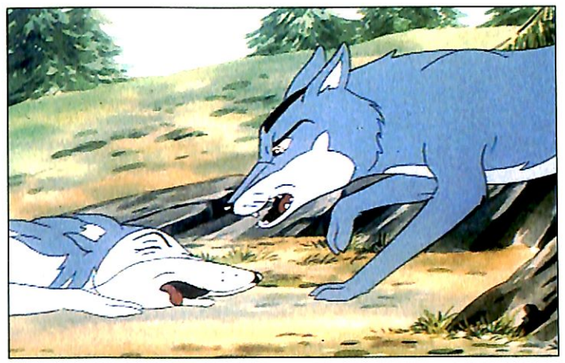
CREDITS
Photographs: Heather Angel AA3; Aquila Photographics (A Cardwell) AA2(t); FLPA (R Wilmhurst) AA4; Natural Science (P Kay) AA2(b); OSF Ltd (D Allan) FF2(r), (Edwin Sadd) FF1(tr); Planet Earth Pictures (K&K Ammann) FF1(br), (John Lythgoe) AA1; Andy Purcell FF2(l).
Illustrations: Andy Cooke PIO1-4; Brin Edwards/Wild Life Art Agency AA3; Dale E Evans CII; John Hutchinson AA4(l); Steve Roberts/Wild Life Art Agency SW1-3; Clive Spong/Linden Artists FC, AA1, FF1, Mask; Chris Turnball/Wild Life Art Agency AA4(r).
Key: AA = All About ...; CII = Colour it in; DN = Discovering Nature; FF = Fascinating Facts; HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it out; SW = Secret World.

61: All for one...

Vixen limped home to Fox and told him that she had been attacked by Lady Blue. But Scarface heard a different story ...



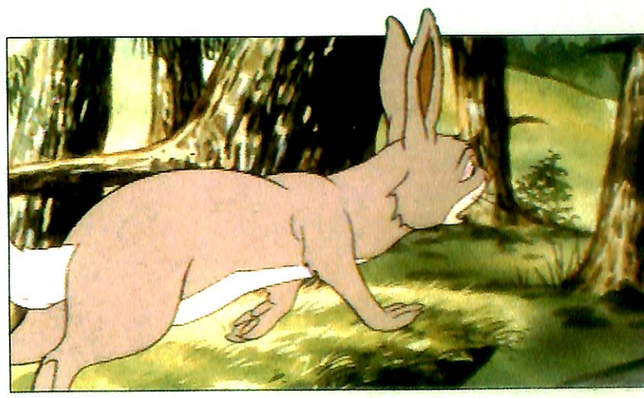
"She really went for me," sobbed Lady Blue to Scarface. "I mean, it's not as if I'd done anything! You know me; an inoffensive little creature if ever there was one!" She pretended to faint.



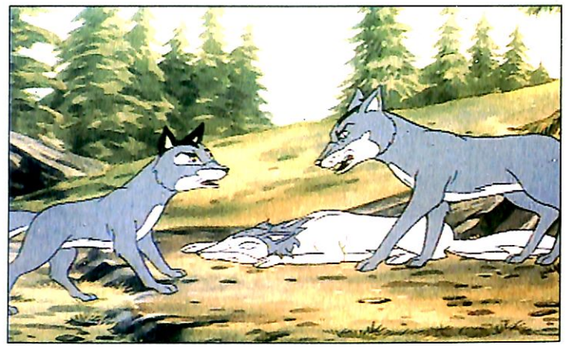
Scarface leaned over Lady Blue and screamed in her ear to wake her up. Lady Blue fluttered her eyelids, "I'm safe here ... near my own dear, strong, fierce mate. You'll defend me!"

"Course I will," replied Scarface, "can't have people duffing you up, can I? Those Farthing Wood creatures are going to rue the day they ever set foot in White Deer Park!"

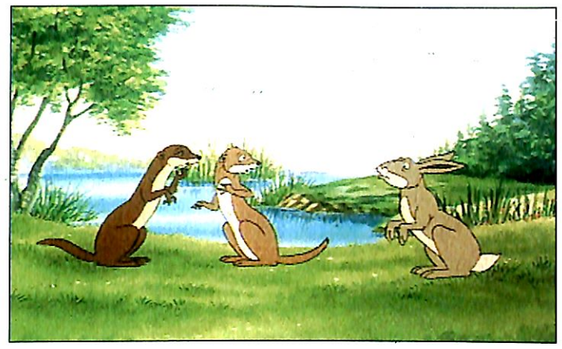
Meanwhile, Charmer and Ranger had met by the boundary stream. "Our families can't fight forever," said Charmer. "And then we'll be together," replied Ranger.



Hare was bounding around near Scarface's earth when he heard voices. He stopped to listen. "I'll muster all the blue foxes in the park; we'll flush out every Farthing creature alive and kill them, one by one!" said Scarface.

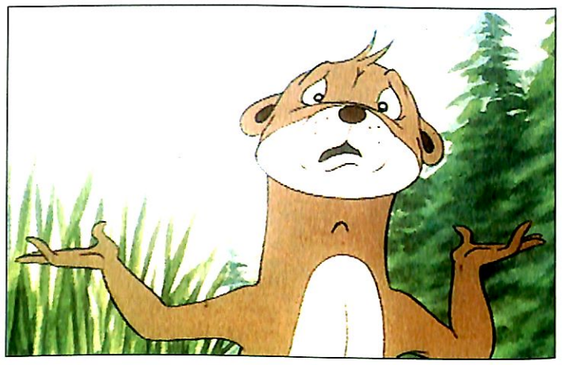


Hare was horrified by what he had heard ... so was Ranger. "My son," Scarface went on, "today your family will reign supreme in White Deer Park."



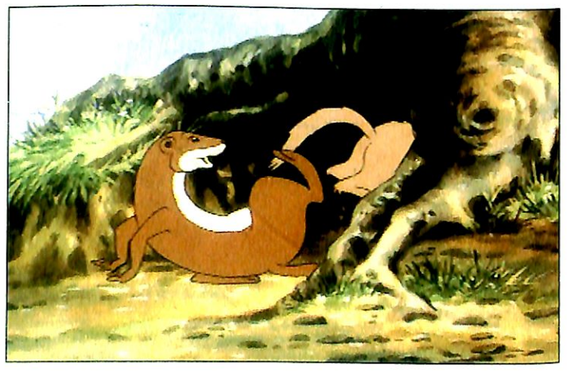
Hare ran to tell the others. He met the weasels at the edge of the pond. "He's going to kill every Farthing creature he can find," panted Mr Hare.

"And I know who he'll ask where to look!" said Weasel. "Got to hide! Got to hide!"

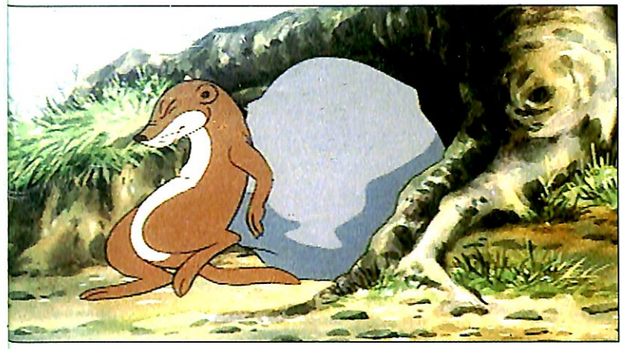


"Me, too! Me too!" said Measly. "Scarface isn't interested in you," replied Weasel. "But Scarface might think I'm you, and he'll tear me limb from limb!" said Measly.

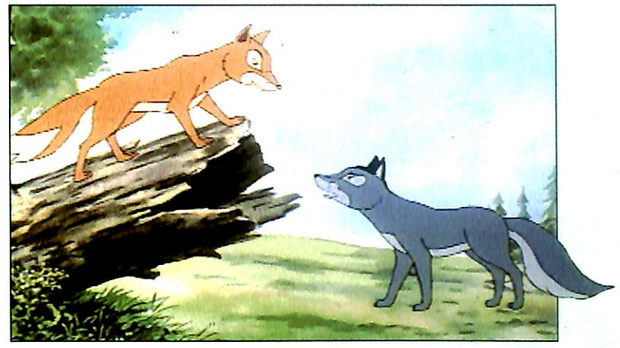
"If I thought I looked anything like you, I'd die," laughed Weasel. "Anyway, he's bound to find us if you make such a racket. Go and find your own hiding place."



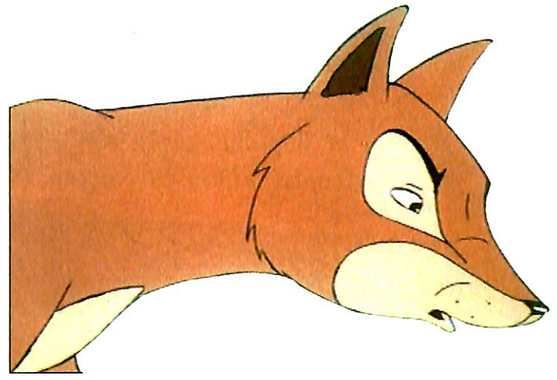
Weasel found a hole in a tree trunk and Measly followed her in. "Go away," she shouted, but he ignored her. While Measly was peering into the trunk, Weasel ran out the other side and kicked Measly into the hole.



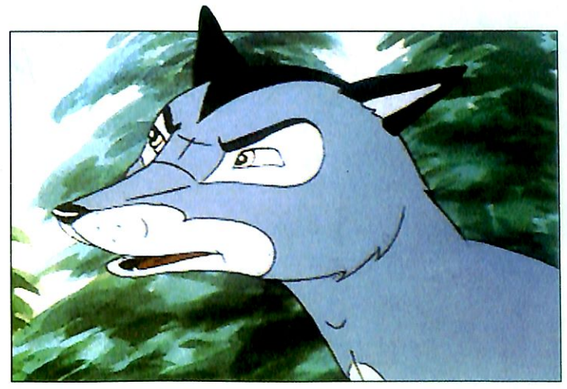
She rolled a stone over the two entrances to the tree. "Let me out, let me out!" shouted Measly. Weasel screamed with laughter, "Now I can find my own hidey hole!" she laughed.



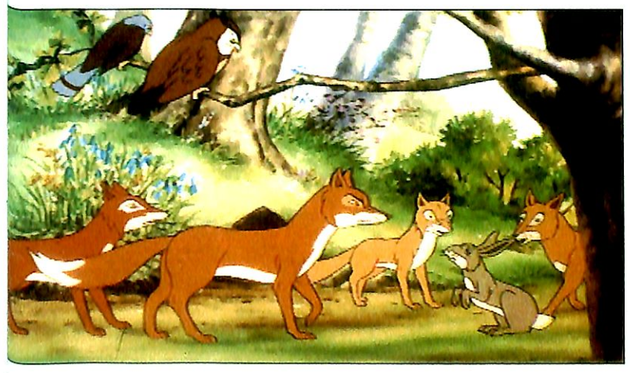
Meanwhile, it was Friendly's turn on watch. He saw Ranger approaching. "I ... I have something to tell you," said Ranger. "I came to warn you. There's going to be an attack."



"Now why would you do that?" said Friendly, suspiciously. "Because of Charmer ... it can't harm to pass on a simple message can it?" asked Ranger.



"How do I know you aren't telling me all of this just to get rid of me, so your family can cross this boundary on to our land?" asked Friendly." "I'll go, and then you'll see that there's no-one following me," said Ranger.



Friendly raced back to tell his father the news. Hare had arrived, too. "I heard him planning to kill us all," he panted.

"So the moment's come," said Fox. "Owl, Kestrel ... get the word out. Tell everyone to meet here! Immediately!" "All for one and one for all!" said Owl, as she flew off to tell everyone the news.

Next week: Surrounded.

All About...

EELS

“Hi! I’m Eel, a rather special snake-shaped fish, the only one of my kind in British waters. Like salmon, I make two remarkable journeys across the Atlantic Ocean in my lifetime – once when I’m a youngster and once towards the end of my life. If you’re an angler you might have seen or even caught one of my family. There are quite a lot of us in rivers, ponds, lakes, ditches and estuaries all round the British Isles. However, we usually hide away during the day, so people don’t see us swimming about very often.”

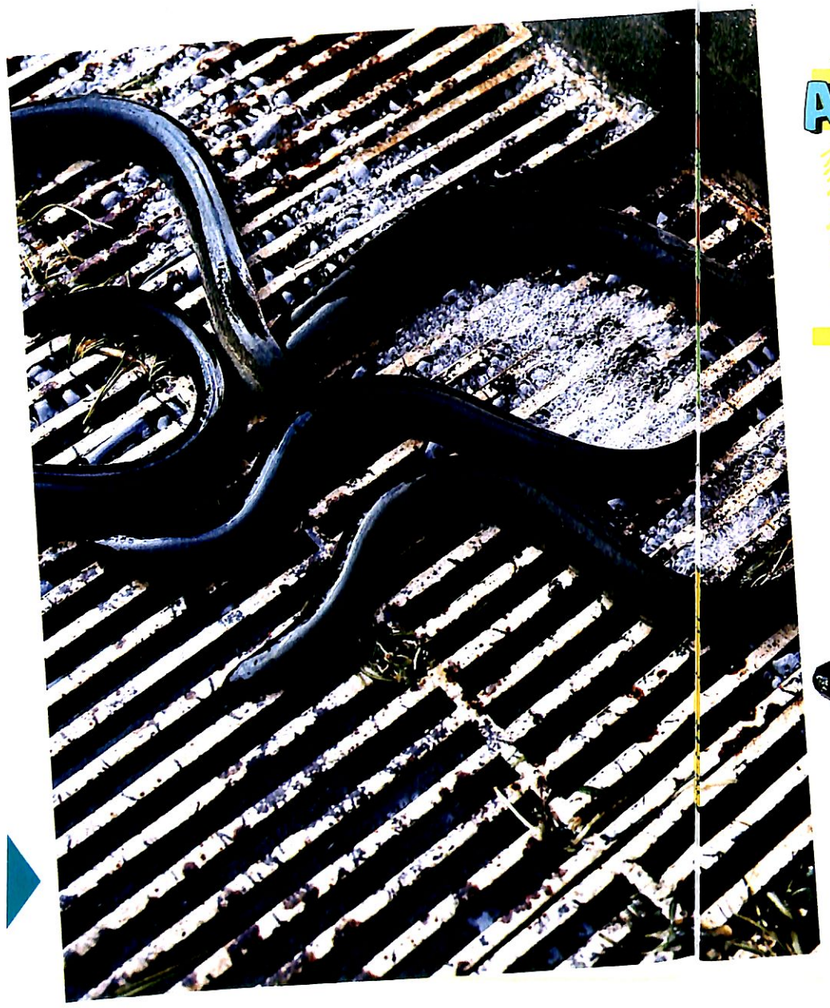
I spend the first part of my life out at sea. When I come into freshwater – early in the year in the west of Ireland but later in the summer in countries as far east as Italy – I am about 6.5cm long and transparent. People sometimes call us glass eels, at this stage, but our proper name is elvers. Even though we often travel together in a group, our journey can be very dangerous. Many of us are eaten by seabirds or caught by fishermen with special nets who take us to eel farms. At the mouths of rivers we often have to burrow into the sand to prevent ourselves being dragged back out to sea by the tide.

If you look closely, you’ll see that although my body is long, thin and twisty, like a snake’s, I have gills, fins, eyes and a mouth, just like a fish. My pectoral fins, behind the small gill slits, are rounded at the end. My other fins are joined together to make a long ridge all the way round my body, from the top of my back to halfway up my belly. I’ve been living in a river for several years so my back is dark brown and my belly is yellow. But later in my life I change colour. I’m 50cm long but the females can grow to 100cm.

I spend most of the day hidden among water plants, under stones or down in the mud. At night I swim out and start to hunt for food. I find my prey by scent. Can you see the pair of tube-shaped nostrils on my upper lip? I mainly eat snails, insect larvae, fish and crayfish, but I also snap up frogs and tadpoles.

Eel mysteries

"In the 1800s, naturalists didn't know how or where eels produced their young because they had never found any of their eggs or newly hatched larvae. Then, at the end of the century, they discovered that certain larvae, floating about in the plankton of the Sargasso Sea (near Bermuda) were, in fact young eels. The scientists studied their movements and found out that the larvae make a 4800km journey from their birthplace to the shores of the British Isles. Some of the eel's mysterious ways are now understood but others still can't be explained."



When eels prepare for their long migration to the Sargasso Sea, they stop feeding. Some of them have been caught in traps and taken to eel ponds. From studying these captive eels, scientists discovered that at this stage of their lives, they can survive for several years without food. How? Well, nearly a quarter of their whole body weight is made up of stored fat. This is what keeps them going during their long journey back across the Atlantic.

LIFE AT SEA

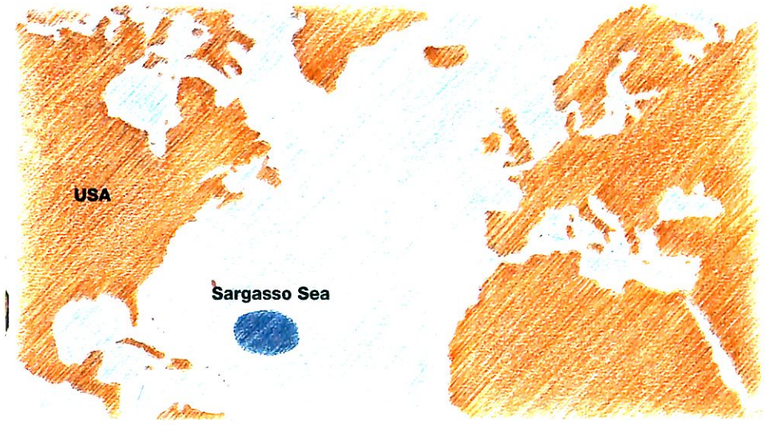
No-one is quite sure what makes an eel get ready to migrate back to the place where it was born. But when it has been in fresh or brackish water for between four and ten years, it starts to change. Its eyes become larger, its colour changes to silvery grey, its nose becomes more pointed and its gut shrinks. As it also stops feeding at this stage, why does the eel develop larger eyes now? Scientists do not know for certain but it could be that they help it to see in the deeper ocean waters so that it can navigate its way across the Atlantic.

IT'S Amazing!

OUTSIZE SPECIMENS

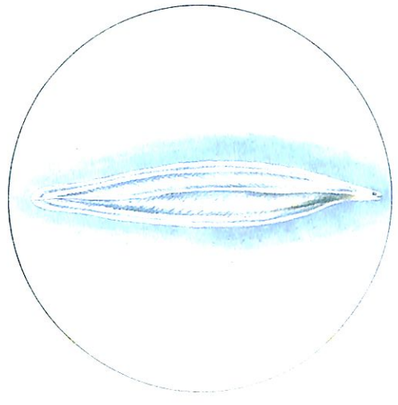
Eels can grow to enormous sizes in our lakes and rivers. A record one was caught in East Anglia: it weighed 12kg and was over 150cm long. Another one lived in a pond in Paris for 37 years and was fed on beef!

Some eels live in lakes and lochs that are many miles from the nearest river. How do they get there? Even though eels do not have lungs, they can survive out of water for much longer than most other fish. They slither across the land on wet, cool nights, using ditches and streams whenever they can. They close their gill slits and get oxygen from the water which they store in the mouth and gill cavity. Their mucus coating helps to prevent them from drying out.



▲ Nobody has actually found adult eels out at sea, on their way to the Sargasso, but since the eggs and young larvae have been found there, many of them obviously do lay their eggs in this part of the Atlantic. Experts believe it takes them between six and eighteen months to make the trip, though they are not sure of their exact route.

▼ When the larvae hatch, they are tiny, blade-shaped, transparent creatures. When these larvae were first discovered, experts thought they were a separate kind of fish. It was only when some were kept in a tank and changed into elvers that the scientists realized they were tiny eels. The larvae drift towards Europe, pushed along on the warm currents of the Gulf Stream, gradually growing bigger and changing until, about three years later, when they're about 6.5cm, they reach the shores of the British Isles.



Dear Friends!

You're getting very inventive – just look at our wonderful picture calendar. What other useful things can you make?

Joan

Daniel McCourt, aged 7

Thomas Massarella, aged 5

Harry: Have you ever seen a dog make a rabbit hutch?
Tom: No, but I've seen a fox make a chicken run!

Michelle Dunne

Christopher Massarella, aged 5

GARETH CREIGHTON, AGED 11, SENT IN THIS **WORDSEARCH**. CAN YOU FIND 18 FARTHING WOOD ANIMALS IN IT?

R	W	V	W	Y	P	Y	U	H	B	T	O	A	D
A	X	S	H	R	E	W	I	A	G	B	F	Y	S
B	L	Q	R	Z	S	Z	A	R	H	R	C	P	D
B	X	U	W	A	K	U	N	E	T	C	L	K	K
I	K	I	V	Z	E	F	U	Q	P	N	E	W	T
T	S	R	F	T	S	N	O	W	L	V	K	O	X
S	E	R	P	B	T	T	N	X	Z	O	V	V	L
M	N	E	O	E	R	T	R	K	J	L	I	M	A
V	O	L	E	S	E	V	J	T	K	K	X	C	D
F	N	G	C	O	L	I	P	E	N	V	E	M	D
D	K	C	H	I	V	I	J	L	W	T	N	T	E
Z	B	A	D	G	E	R	I	O	U	N	N	N	R
M	Z	G	H	V	R	E	H	M	I	C	E	N	P
P	G	W	E	A	S	E	L	R	O	R	Z	O	S
R	F	O	I	H	E	D	G	E	H	O	G	N	O
O	P	H	E	A	S	A	N	T	O	P	K	Q	I

WORDSEARCH:
Squirrel, Fox, Mice, Mole, Newt, Owl, Badger, Adder, Voles, Shrew, Toad, Hare, Rabbits, Pheasant, Vixen, Weasel, Hedgehog, Kestrel.

Emma Smith, aged 9

Mary had a little lamb,
She ate it with mint jelly,
And everywhere that Mary went,
The lamb was in her belly.

Edith O'Mahony

Alex Foster, aged 10

Knock, Knock!
Who's there?
Boo.
Boo who?
Don't cry, it's only a joke!

Ashley Ross, aged 8

What is Toad's favourite game?

Croak-et!

Hector Boyce, aged 6

HARE
Swiftest feet,
Roaming free,
Over fields,
In between trees.

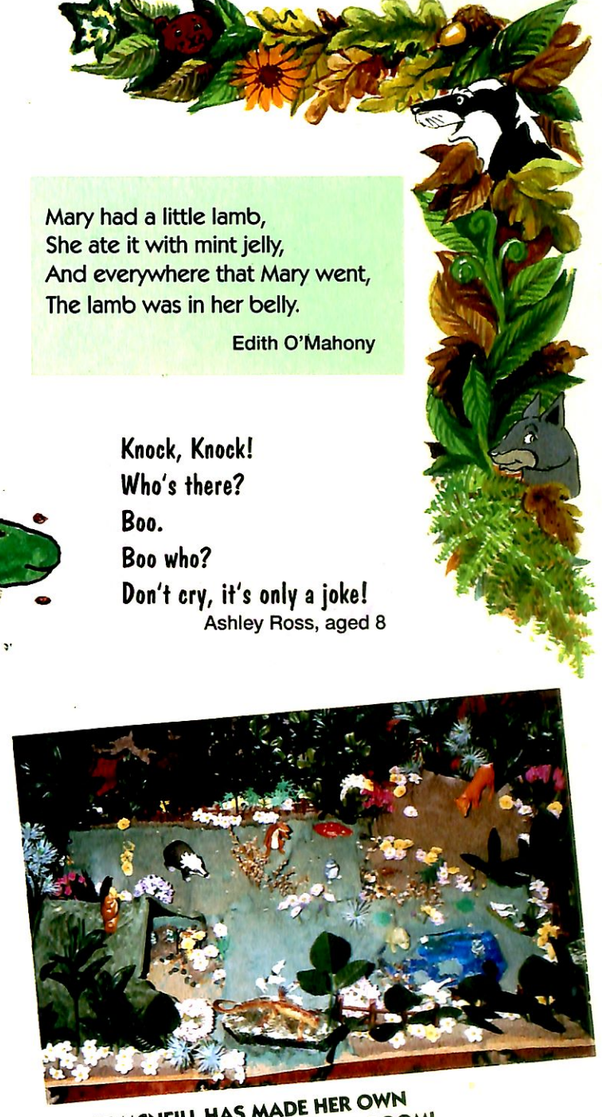
Through a wood,
I spy some eyes,
A fox or stoat,
Waiting to pounce.

I start to bound,
In through the brush,
The killer follows,
With slackening pace.

I glance behind me,
There it is,
A chestnut body,
With powerful grace.

The creature descends,
I realize I'm free,
I bounce for joy,
In obvious glee!

by Helen Coles age 9.



ZOWIE MCNEILL HAS MADE HER OWN FARTHING WOOD IN HER LIVING ROOM!

Don't forget to put your name, age and address on the back of anything you send in.

What do you call a nasty hedgehog?

Spikeful!

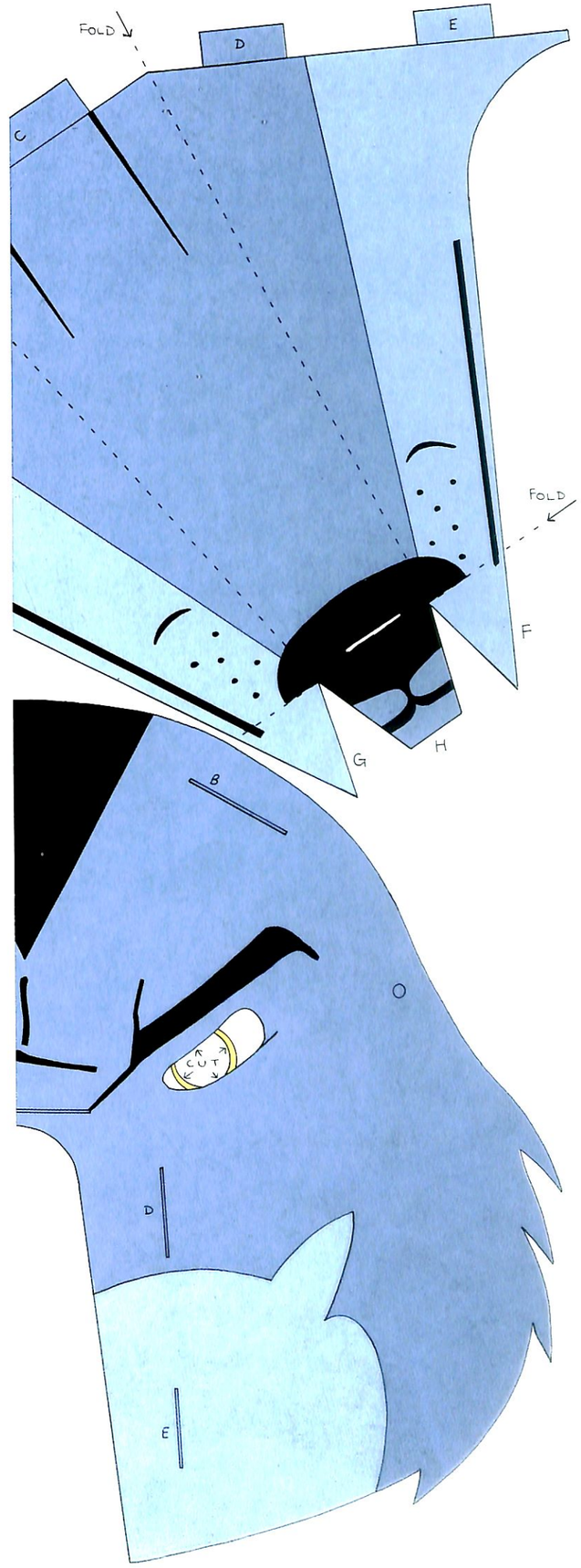
Lisa Pearson, aged 8

Secret World of..

A SAND DUNE

"Running through the sand dunes and breathing the sea air makes me want to break out in song – I love it here! The tall grass is a perfect hide-away from the sun and wind, and there are plenty of tasty eggs for me to feast on. Climbing up the hills can sometimes be a bit exhausting though, some of these dunes are really steep, so I mainly stay near the top. This is where most of the plants grow and where turf forms, making the sand more stable, so it is also where most of the animals live. Plenty of birds make their nests here and you will also see butterflies, caterpillars, snails and other insects. Rabbits and foxes build burrows up here, too. You might even spot my cousin, the stoat."

Weasel's Challenge: how many stripey Cinnabar moth caterpillars can you spot?



EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS LTD 1994

1992 EBU LICENSED BY BBC ENTERPRISES LTD

Secret World of..

A SAND DUNE

"Running through the sand dunes and breathing the sea air makes me want to break out in song – I love it here! The tall grass is a perfect hide-away from the sun and wind, and there are plenty of tasty eggs for me to feast on. Climbing up the hills can sometimes be a bit exhausting though, some of these dunes are really steep, so I mainly stay near the top. This is where most of the plants grow and where turf forms, making the sand more stable, so it is also where most of the animals live. Plenty of birds make their nests here and you will also see butterflies, caterpillars, snails and other insects. Rabbits and foxes build burrows up here, too. You might even spot my cousin, the stoat."

Weasel's Challenge: how many stripey Cinnabar moth caterpillars can you spot?

How to make your Scarface mask

1 Cut out the mask base. Cut out the slots and eye holes.

2 Cut out the ears. Push tab A through slot A on the mask base. Push tab B through slot B on the mask base. Fold the tabs upwards and glue them to the back of the mask.

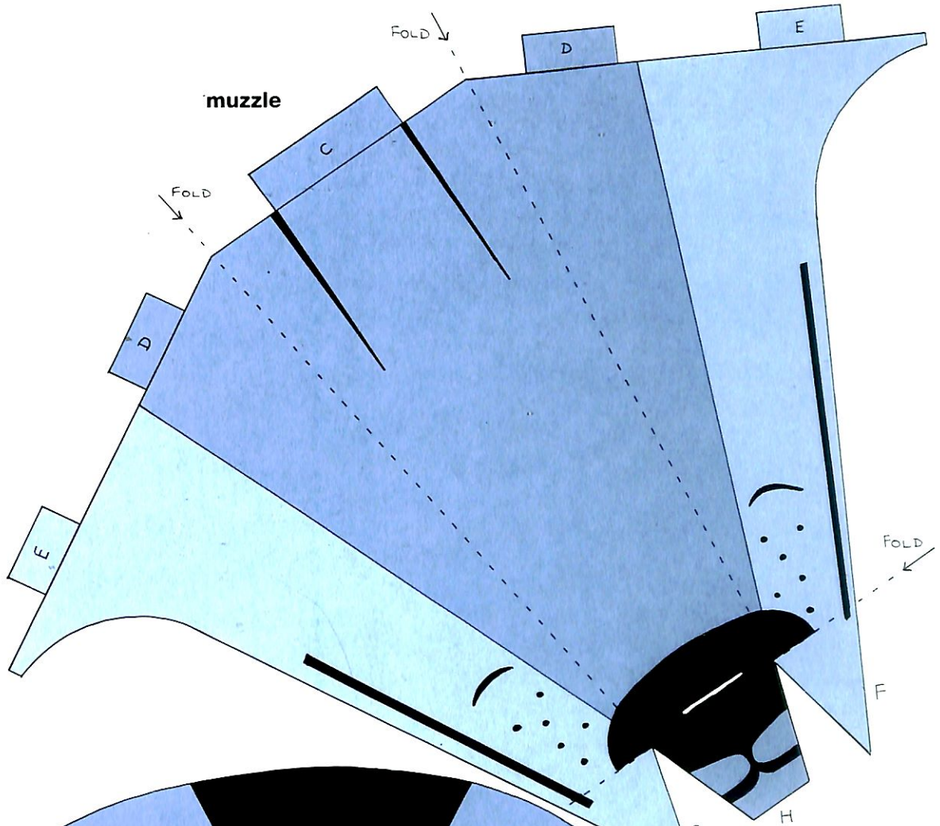
3 Cut out Scarface's muzzle. Make downward creases along the dotted lines.

4 To make the nose, fold triangles F and G behind H, and glue them in place.

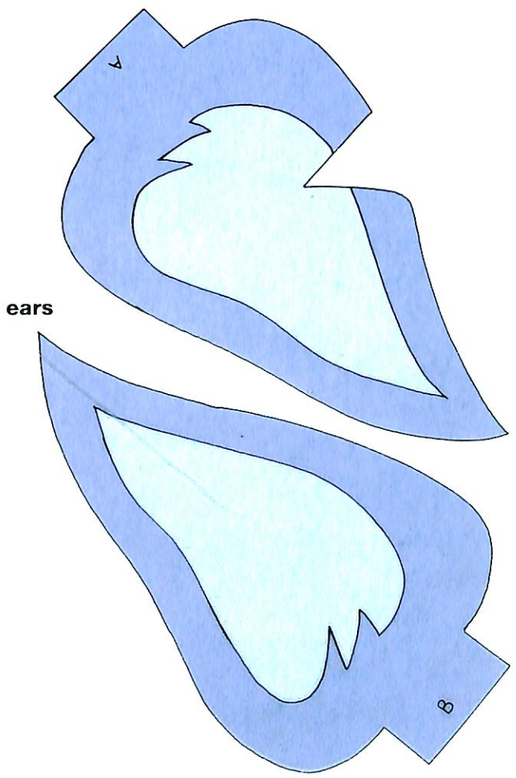
5 To attach the muzzle to the mask base, slot tab C through slot C, tabs D through slots D and tabs E through slots E. Fold all the tabs upwards and glue them in place.

6 Cut a length of elastic to fit round your head. Pierce a hole either side of the mask. Push the ends of the elastic through these holes and knot them.

muzzle



ears



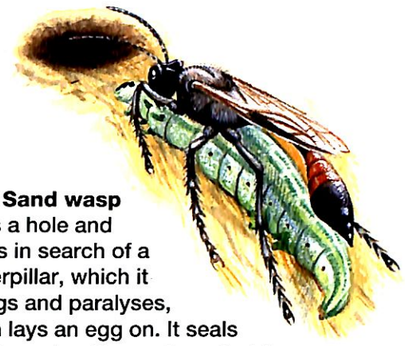
mask base

EAGLEMOSS PUBLICATIONS LTD 1994 1994. EBU LICENSED BY BBC ENTERPRISES LTD

Secret World of...

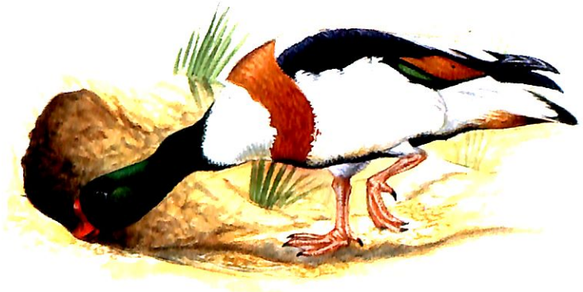
You should be able to pick out five Cinnabar moth caterpillars crawling along grass stalks.

Sea-rocket is one of a few plants that can survive on the loose sand at the base of sand dunes. It has creeping roots that spread outwards, helping it to hang on when strong winds sweep the shore.



The **Sand wasp** digs a hole and goes in search of a caterpillar, which it stings and paralyses, then lays an egg on. It seals up the caterpillar and egg inside the hole, to provide food for the young wasp when it hatches.

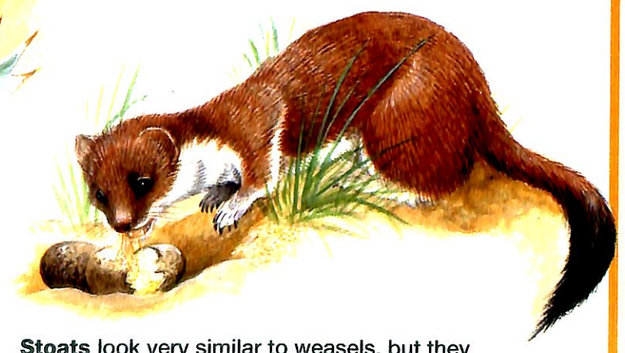
Marram grass holds the sand dune together. Its narrow leaves grow in spiky tufts and trap the wind-blown sand. Then, long roots spread through the loose sand and bind it together. More sand piles up round the grass, and dunes are formed.



The female **Shelduck** lays her eggs in a hole, often using an old rabbit burrow in the dune. She lays eight to ten eggs. When the chicks have all hatched, both parents lead them to a nursery are, where they join a creche.

Sea holly has stiff, spiky leaves with a glossy surface, which helps them to save water. The leaves and stems have a bluish tinge and the flowers are also blue.

Sandhill snails climb up grass stalks to avoid the hot layer of air just above the sun-baked sand. They first appear after a rain shower, or in early morning dew. In many parts of Europe, these snails are a popular food!



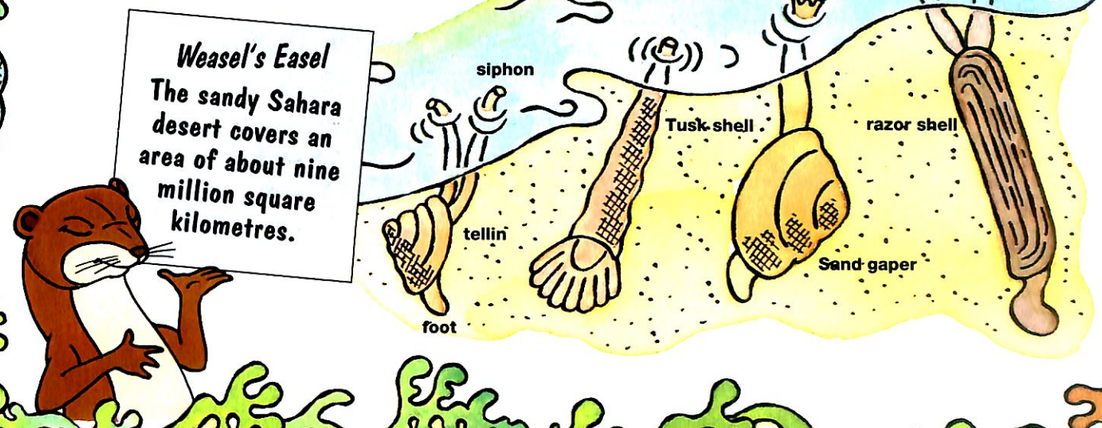
Stoats look very similar to weasels, but they are bigger and have a black-tipped tail. They roam the dunes on the look-out for eggs and will also prey on small birds and young rabbits.

GREAT GRAINS OF SAND

I'm not the only creature that prefers the underground life. There are lots of us. Mind you, some don't get around much. I'm always busy tunnelling from one spot to another, but some sand dwellers prefer it in one place. There's so much fun you can have in the sand, why don't they make more use of it?

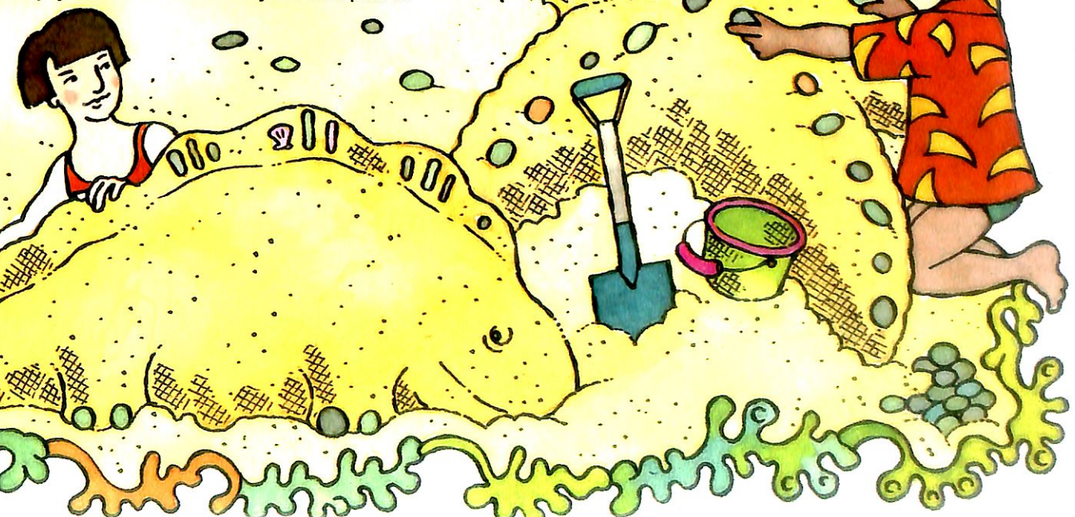
Buried bivalves

These double-shelled shoreline inhabitants spend most of their life buried in the sand under the sea. They dig a hole with their foot and burrow down. Then they poke a siphon (tube) up into the sea, so that they can catch food and take water into their gills to breathe.



SANDY SCULPTURES

You don't have to stick to sandcastles when you're playing on the beach. Why not sculpt something a bit different – like a starfish, a giant foot, or even a dinosaur? Use pebbles and empty shells to decorate your sculpture.



SAND FISH

Make a plaster cast of a fish using a sand mould.

You will need:

old tray (like a roasting tin), sand, vegetable oil, old spoon, old jug, plaster of Paris (from a craft shop), water, nylon cord about 20cm long, poster paints, clear varnish, paint brush.

1 Put a layer of sand (10–12cm deep) into a tray. Stir some oil in until it's damp and you can mould it easily.

2 Carve out a fish shape using an old spoon and your fingers. Use the edge of the spoon to give the mould some scales. Make sure you don't go through to the bottom of the tray.

3 Mix some plaster of Paris and water in a jug until the consistency is like double cream. Spoon the wet plaster into your mould, right up to the top. Pour spare plaster into a plastic bag. (Let it set before you throw it away.)

4 If you want to hang your fish up, tie a knot in each end of a length of nylon cord. Stick the ends into the wet plaster so that a loop sticks out.

5 Leave the fish to dry for an hour. Carefully lift your fish out of the sand and pour some water over it to wash away extra sand. Some sand will stick to the surface, giving it a slightly knobbly surface.

6 Let your fish dry for another 48 hours. Paint it with poster paints in tropical colours, or just a coat of clear varnish for a natural look.

KING CANUTE

Canute was a real king who lived in the 11th century. He tried to command the sea to flow back when the tide was coming in. Of course, it didn't! Can you hold the sea back with a sandcastle?

When the tide starts to come in on the beach, draw a line in the sand. You and your friends have 10 minutes to build one castle each along this line. Stick a twig in the top of the castle for a flagpole.

Now wait ... as the water comes in, your castles will start to fall apart. The castle builder whose flagpole stays upright the longest is the winner.

SANDCASTLE CAKE

This is quite a big cake, so you'll need some help to demolish it.

You will need:

sponge cake, two Swiss rolls, 200g soft butter or margarine, 450g sieved icing sugar, jam, cake decorations, toothpick, silver foil.

1 First make your butter icing. Beat the butter with a fork until it's creamy. Add the icing sugar, one spoonful at a time, beating well after each spoonful. If the mixture is very thick, carefully mix in some water, until it's spreadable but not runny.

2 Put a square sponge cake on a large plate. If you can't find a square cake in the shops, buy a round one and cut it square (use the leftover bits in a trifle). Cut two Swiss rolls in half. Use jam to stick the Swiss roll halves on the sponge, one on each corner.

3 Spread the butter icing over the whole cake.

4 Decorate your castle with chopped nuts, hundreds and thousands or whatever else you've got handy (chocolate shells, sweet pebbles, etc.). Make a flagpole out of a toothpick and some silver foil and stick it in one of the turrets (towers).

FARTHING CHRONICLE

ISSUE 3 | FREE TO ALL WHITE DEER PARK RESIDENTS | WEEKLY

WORLD NEWS...WORLD NEWS...WORLD NEWS...WORLD NEWS...

Have the Aliens Landed?

Reporter Fox

Reports have just come in of a sighting in America of a strange glowing frog. "We were just terrified," said local mice. "We thought it was some kind of alien space frog sitting by the pond. There was an eerie glow all around him and it seemed to be coming from his stomach!"

Local investigators soon tracked down the possible alien, who by then had stopped glowing. They later discovered it was just an ordinary frog who had eaten too many fireflies. These were lighting him up from the inside and making him glow. Time to go on a firefly-free diet perhaps!

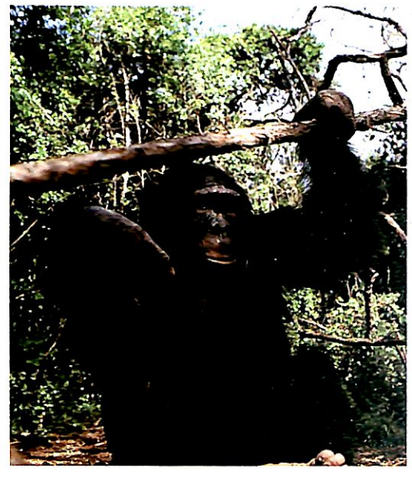
FOOD AND DRINK

by Mole

A sweet tooth is something many of you humans have, but we animals tend to prefer more savoury foods. In fact, some animals like to eat pure salt! Elephants actually mine the salt they eat. They use their tusks to chip away at salty earth, then they grind it up with their teeth to extract the salt. I'd rather have a fat, juicy worm anytime!

WHISTLER'S WEATHER

Get ready for rain in White Deer Park today, as tremendous storms are forecast. The gathering clouds look like they could bring lightning, too. But if you were living in the forests of central Africa, storms would bring another amazing sight. At the beginning of a heavy storm, male chimpanzees perform strange rain dances which involve swaying, stamping and tearing the branches off trees. These incredible dances can last up to 15 minutes or even longer!



HOME NEWS...

A LUCKY ESCAPE!

Reporter Weasel

A Wood mouse is recovering at home today after a narrow escape last night. "I made the mistake when I ran across the garden," he said. "I thought as it was dark I would be safe, but I didn't see the cat lurking over by the shed." The Wood mouse was able to escape only because of its amazing ability to shed the end of its tail, which the cat had pounced upon. The tail may never grow again. "Obviously, I'll miss my tail. But at least I'm still here," said the mouse.

NEWSFLASH

Have you got problems with nasty neighbours? In a special feature, we reveal some of the horror stories sent in by our readers and suggest ways of coping with terrible tyrants.

ADDER'S ADS

LOST

Somewhere in area of White Deer Park. Pair of antlers, used but in good condition. Not valuable, but owner was very attached to them. Small reward offered on return. Reply, W. Stag, Stone Circle.

Notes & Queries

Dear Vixen,

When my babies are born, the weather is often still so very cold and sometimes even snowy. It's hard to know what to do to keep them warm. Have you any suggestions?

Well, body warmth is always the easiest form of heating to provide and often the most effective. Even Emperor penguins who live in the coldest part of the world, the Antarctic, use this method. The temperature there rarely rises above freezing, even in the summer months. So when babies are born it is bitterly cold and keeping them warm is vital. To do this, the father penguin gently rests the baby on his feet, holding it off the ice. The baby snuggles into the cosy feathers on his tummy and is kept warm by the heat from its father's body. Isn't it nice to hear of fathers doing some of the work for a change!

NEXT WEEK: Strange sightings in Africa reported by Fox, and a lesson from Owl on the importance of manners.

THE MAGIC SHOW

Everyone in White Deer Park was very excited – the Great Shazam was coming to perform his magic tricks!

When the day arrived, there was a huge audience of animals waiting expectantly. The Great Shazam made a grand entrance with his assistant, Vixen, and then began to do wondrous things. He produced six doves out of his top hat and they all flew off. Miraculously, with one swish of his wand, he brought them all back again.

He conjured several objects out of thin air and made them disappear again – and then asked for a volunteer. Weasel, always ready for a laugh, got up. The assistant produced a box and asked Weasel to get inside – what was going to happen?

The Great Shazam took a saw and began to cut through the box. When it split in half, the animals gasped. He put the two halves together, waved his wand, opened up the box – and out jumped Weasel. The animals sighed with relief.

HIDDEN DOVES
The Great Shazam has just conjured six doves out of his hat and they've disappeared. Can you see where they are hiding in the picture?

MAGIC CIRCLES
Look at the magician's tables and see how many complete, unbroken circles you can count on them.

Which two of the Great Shazam's hats are exactly the same?

PICK-UP WANDS
The magician's wands are lying in a heap. If he was to pick them up, one by one, taking the top one each time, in what order would he do it?

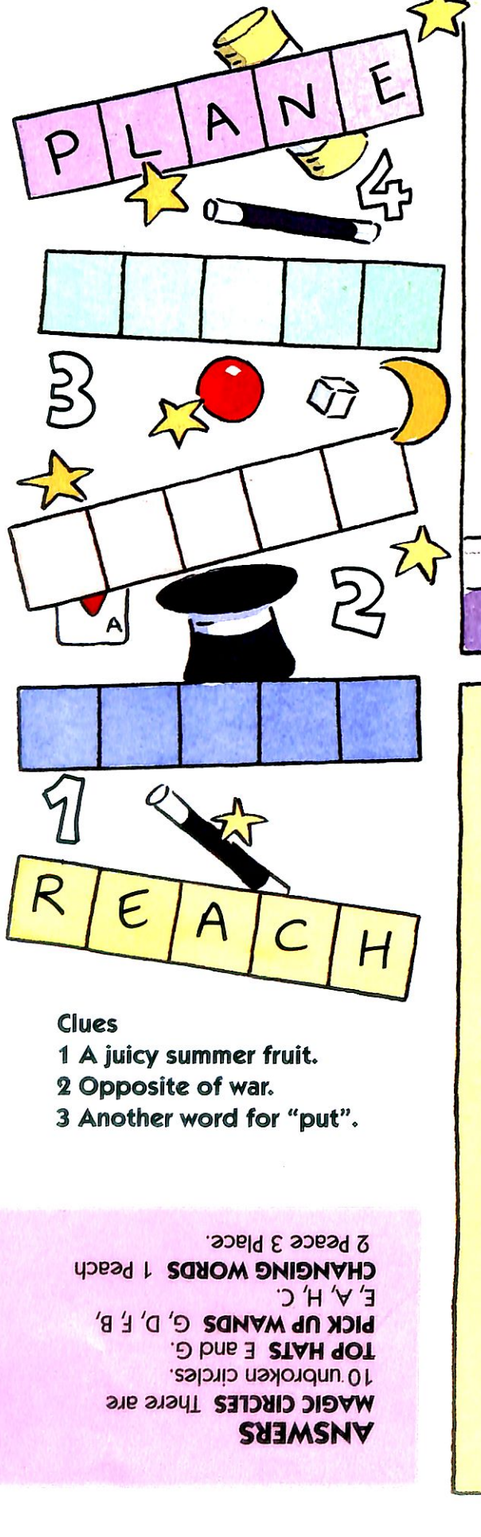
Mrs Mouse turned to her youngest – but he wasn't there. "Where are you?" she called, but there was no sign of him.

The Great Shazam continued with his tricks, when, suddenly, Mrs Mouse felt her youngest by her side. "Where have you been?" she demanded.

"I've just done a disappearing trick of my own," he grinned, mischievously.

Puzzle it out

CHANGING WORDS
Do your own magic and change the word REACH into PLANE.



Clues
1 A juicy summer fruit.
2 Opposite of war.
3 Another word for "put".

ANSWERS
MAGIC CIRCLES There are 10 unbroken circles.
TOP HATS E and G.
PICK UP WANDS G, D, F, B, E, A, H, C.
CHANGING WORDS 1 peach 2 peace 3 place.

TEST YOUR STRENGTH!

FITTER THAN FIVE!

You'll need a wall and five friends.

Face the wall and place your hands flat against it. Then ask one of your friends to stand behind you and put his hands on your shoulders. The rest of your friends stand behind each other in a line with their hands on the shoulders of the person in front.

When you shout "Push!", everyone must push against you as hard as they can.

Here are some tricks to show your friends how much stronger you are than them!

However hard they push, you will not be squashed against the wall. So it looks as though you're stronger than five people!

The secret: each person pushes against the one in front, who pushes back so as not to fall over. The only friend really pushing you is the one behind you – not all five of them!

LEG LIFT

Even with your magical powers, you won't have the strength for this trick!

Stand sideways, with one leg pressed against a wall, and lift your other leg. Impossible, isn't it?!

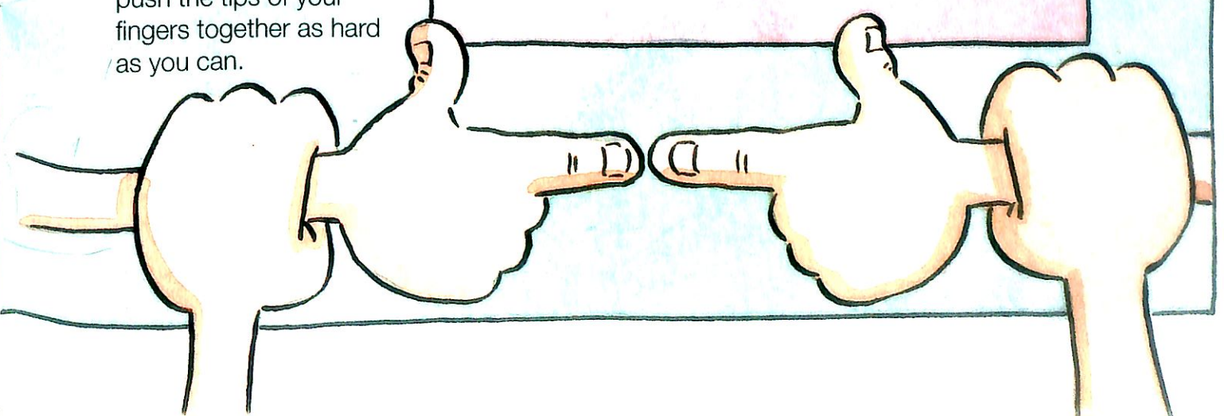
FINGERS VERSUS HANDS

Show a friend that you have more strength in two fingers than they have in both hands!

Place the tips of your two forefingers together.

Now tell your friend to stand in front of you and ask her to pull your fingers apart. As your friend tries to separate your fingers, push the tips of your fingers together as hard as you can.

The secret
Your friend shouldn't be able to separate your two fingers because the muscles you use to push things with are much stronger than those that you pull with.



Colour it in

DON'T BUG ME